

## **ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOLOGICAL PILOT LABORATORIES**

### **New National Project in 2008**

**How and Why the Project Began.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), via the Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN), recognized that there is a significant gap in capability to analyze environmental samples following detonation of a Radioactive Dispersal Device—DHS National Planning Scenario #11. A Pilot Program has been put into place to enhance state radiological laboratory capability and capacity. It is expected that each laboratory selected and successful in carrying out the pilot project will reduce that gap, for Scenario #11, by 5%. (Summaries of the DHS planning scenarios can be viewed at [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/images/video/2007\\_pdfs/0114-chlorine-scenario.pdf](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/images/video/2007_pdfs/0114-chlorine-scenario.pdf))

**Who Is Eligible and What They Receive.** In September, 2007 EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Management (OEM) initiated a Request for Proposals (RFP) for cooperative agreements in the form of demonstration projects aimed at enhancing the capability and capacity of public sector environmental radiological laboratories. Eligible entities included State, local, and Indian tribal governmental environmental radiological laboratories. Recipient laboratories will receive nuclear counting instrumentation, funding for supplies, personnel costs, and limited facility upgrades and training. Recipient laboratories will undergo audits and proficiency testing as part of the demonstration study.

**Selection of Applicants.** The RFP closed November, 2007. Sixteen applications from laboratories across the country were received. Nuclear counting instrumentation to be provided to each recipient laboratory was purchased in 2007, and is ready to ship upon official award of the cooperative agreements. The proposals from the 16 applicants have been evaluated, and two laboratories have initially been selected. Further selections from the remaining applicants are possible depending on funding.

**What Will Happen in Months Ahead.** It is expected that the official award from the Grants Office will occur in April, 2008. Over the next 18 months the laboratories will receive and integrate new instruments, participate in training, analyze proficiency testing samples, and adopt rapid assessment procedures. Regional Offices and EPA response teams will be better prepared to protect the public in the event of a terrorist attack similar to that exercised in TOPOFF IV.